

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 10-12, 16, 17 and 32-46 are pending. Claims 1-3, 10-12, 16-17 and 32-40 have been rejected. Claims 41-46 are objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants add new claims 47-60 and cancel claims 40-41.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 41-46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants cancel claims 40 and 41 and amend claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 41. Applicants add new claims 47-50 and 55 including the subject matter of allowable claims 42-46. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 12, 16, 17 32-37, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' own WO 00/73063 publication ("PCT 00"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As recognized in the Office Action, the cited prior art does not teach the features of allowable claim 41, which features have been incorporated into amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that all rejections under Section 102 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' WO 99/11452 publication ("PCT 99") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0019206 to Deka et al. ("Deka"). Claim 38 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' WO 99/11452 publication ("PCT 99") as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,744,800 to Kennedy et al. ("Kennedy"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As recognized in the Office Action, the cited combinations of prior art do not teach or suggest the features of allowable claim 41, which features have been incorporated into independent claim 1 as stated above. Dependent claims 11 and 38 are also allowable for at least the same reasons set forth with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that all rejections under Section 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of all claims be reconsidered and withdrawn, in light of the above amendments and remarks.

Should the Examiner feel that further amendment or discussion may be necessary to place the claims in condition for allowance, she is welcomed to call the undersigned attorney at her convenience.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of all filed IDS' not previously considered, by initialing and returning each Form 1449.

Applicants requests a three (3) month extension of time. All fees are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 05918-336US1.

Applicant : William H. Shepard et al
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Respectfully submitted,

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/Kirk Dorius/

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